

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected.

No claims have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,847,778 (Vallone, et al.)

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,847,778 (Vallone, et al.).

The rejection of claim 1 is respectfully traversed on the grounds that Vallone fails to disclose or suggest each limitation of claim 1.

Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A video playback apparatus having means to invoke either replay or reverse modes upon receipt of a replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal, depending on the duration of the replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal, and means to invoke either skip or forward functions upon receipt of a skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal, depending on the duration of the skip forward multipurpose remote control signal.

For example, Vallone fails to disclose or suggest at least the limitations: (1) means to invoke either replay or reverse commands upon receipt of a replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal depending on the duration of the replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal; and (2) means to invoke either skip or forward functions upon receipt of a skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal, depending on the duration of the skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal.

The Examiner states that Vallone discloses a remote control which has a reverse key and a forward key. The Examiner states: ““replay-reverse” and “skip forward” is considered to reverse and forward key respectively.” This is understood to mean that any reverse signal meets the limitation “replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal.” This represents clear error on the part of the Examiner.

The term “replay” is clearly defined in the specification. For example, the specification states, at Paragraph [0012]:

“a replay function to review a predetermined, preceding segment, for example the last seven seconds prior to the replay function being invoked.”

The term “reverse” is also clearly defined in the specification. For example, the specification states, at Paragraph [0012]:

“the reverse function, which causes the PVR to play backwards through the digital file from the point where the function is invoked...”

Thus, the “replay” function and “reverse” function are two distinct functions. The Examiner’s position can only be interpreted as contending that these two distinct functions are the same function. The Examiner appears to have completely disregarded the terms “replay” and “multipurpose” in claim 1.

Indeed, Vallone discloses two different buttons for the different functions “replay” and “reverse.” As to “replay,” Vallone discloses, in Fig. 14, a remote control 1401 having an instant replay button 1415 (col. 19, lines 23-32). As to “rewind,” Vallone discloses a rewind button 1407 on remote control 1401. Thus, Vallone, like the prior art described in the specification in Paragraph [0012], has reverse and replay functions, but separate keys on the remote control device. Thus, it is clear that both the specification and the Vallone reference make clear that “reverse” and “replay” are

distinct functions. Accordingly, the Examiner's contention that "replay-reverse" means "reverse" is clearly erroneous.

The Examiner's statement noted above is understood to mean that any reverse function meets the limitation "skip-forward." The Examiner's position that "skip-forward" is the same as "forward" is also clearly erroneous. The Examiner has completely disregarded the terms "skip" and "multipurpose" in claim 1. The term "skip" is clearly defined in the specification at Paragraph [0012], which states: "skip, which forwards the play for a predetermined time such as 30 seconds."

Similarly, the term "forward" is defined in Paragraph [0012] as "forward, which fast forwards the play continuously."

Thus, the "skip" function and the "forward" function are also two distinct functions. The Examiner's position can only be interpreted as contending that these two distinct functions are the same function. Indeed, the Examiner appears to have completely disregarded the term "skip" in claim 1.

Indeed, Vallone discloses two different buttons for the different functions "skip" and "forward." In Vallone, the skip function is called "jump." The forward function is called "fast forward." Remote control 1401 of Vallone has a distinct jump button 1407 and a distinct fast forward button 1408 (col. 19, lines 23-27). Thus, one of ordinary skill reading Vallone will understand that remote control 1401 provides a jump, or skip, signal, if the user presses jump button 1414, and a fast forward signal if the user presses fast forward button 1408. The specification also clearly states that this feature of Vallone is part of the prior art. Paragraph [0012] states: "Separate keys were also necessary in prior art remote controlled PVRs for skip, which forwards the play for a predetermined time such as 30 seconds, and forward, which fast forwards the play

continuously.” Thus, the Examiner’s position that “skip-forward” means “forward” is clearly erroneous.

As Vallone fails to disclose a “replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal,” Vallone necessarily fails to disclose the claimed “means to invoke either replay or reverse commands upon receipt of a replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal depending on the duration of the replay-reverse multipurpose remote control signal.”

Similarly, as Vallone fails to disclose a “skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal,” Vallone necessarily fails to disclose the claimed “means to invoke either skip or forward commands upon receipt of a skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal depending on the duration of the skip-forward multipurpose remote control signal.”

The Examiner also contends that Vallone teaches performing different functions depending on the duration of a signal from the remote control. The Examiner justifies this position as follows:

Vallone et al discloses from Col.20, lines 32-47, that “Referring again to Figs. 14 and 15, the invention ... The user initially places the operation mode into ... buttons places the system into the 1x, 2x or 3x fast forward or reverse modes, respectively ...”. Vallone discloses different fast forward and rewind modes. For example, when user select 1x or 2x fast forward or reverse mode, different mode has different duration of signal from remote to make different operations.

This position is clearly erroneous for two independent reasons. There is simply no reference in Vallone to performing *different* functions depending on the *duration* of a signal from the remote. Rather, in Vallone, the speed of the *same* function, e.g., 1x, 2x or 3x speed of the fast forward function, may be selected depending on the *number* of presses of the fast forward button 1408. The difference in the manner of operation of the fast forward function depends on the number of repetitions of the signal, and not on

the duration of the signal. Moreover, the number of repetitions does not determine which function is selected, but the manner of operation of the function.

Similarly, Vallone teaches selecting a 1x, 2x or 3x mode of the reverse function depending on the *number* of presses of the reverse button 1407 (col. 20, lines 37-43). However, this permits adjustment of the operation of a *single* function based on a *number* of presses of a button, in contrast to claim 1, which recites performing *different* functions based on the *duration* of a signal.

The office action also cites Fig. 9 and col. 10, lines 4-19 as teaching the limitations of claim 1. However, the cited portion of Vallone merely states that when the fast forward key is pressed, the control object 917 sends an event to the transform 902 that tells it to move forward two seconds. There is no teaching, or even a hint, that the response of the system of Vallone to the fast forward key may be either fast forward or skip depending on the duration of the signal. The cited portion of Vallone states that the same method works for fast reverse. Again, there is no hint that the response of the system of Vallone to the fast reverse key may be either reverse or replay depending on the duration of the signal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

As to claim 2, Vallone fails to teach, for example, a "first replay-reverse predetermined threshold" or a "first skip-forward predetermined threshold." The office action states, for example in Paragraph 3, that "duration can change by user." The duration that can be user selected is not a duration of a skip-forward predetermined threshold or a replay-reverse predetermined threshold. For example, Vallone does state: "While the instant replay button 1415 causes the slider 2605 to reposition ten

seconds (the time span is system adjustable) backwards into the cache bar 2602, thereby allowing the user to view a portion of the program in the same manner as an instant replay operates in football broadcasts.” (col. 19, lines 27-32). However, the adjustable time span is that of the duration of the instant replay, and has nothing whatever to do with thresholds separating skip commands from forward commands, or thresholds separating replay commands from reverse commands.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 2 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 2 is also allowable by virtue of its dependence on an allowable base claim.

Claims 3-19 are allowable at least by virtue of their ultimate dependence on an allowable base claim.

Claim 20 incorporates the limitations of claim 1, and is allowable at least for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 21 is an independent method claim having limitations similar to the limitations of claim 1. The rejection is supported by the Examiner’s clearly erroneous positions as discussed above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, claim 21 is allowable at least for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 22 is an independent claim having the limitation of inter alia, “a microprocessor for varying the playback speed according to duration of the external speed control signal.” As explained above, the Examiner’s position that Vallone discloses varying playback speed based on the *duration* of a control signal is clearly erroneous. Rather, Vallone discloses varying playback speed depending on the *number* of repetitions of a signal from a remote control (col. 20, lines 41-43).

For at least these reasons, claim 22 is allowable.

Claims 23 and 24 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable claim 22.

Claim 25 depends from claim 22, and further recites "a signal generated by holding down a key for a skip-forward function." As explained above in connection with claim 1, Vallone does not disclose a key that provides both a skip and a forward function. For at least this reason, in addition to its dependence from allowable claim 22, claim 25 is allowable.

Claim 26 depends from claim 22 and is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable 22.

Claim 27 depends from claim 22, and further recites "a signal generated by holding down a key for a replay-reverse function." As explained above in connection with claim 1, Vallone does not disclose a key that provides both a replay and a reverse function. For at least this reason, in addition to its dependence from allowable claim 22, claim 27 is allowable.

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 10/510,055
Office Action dated: October 19, 2006

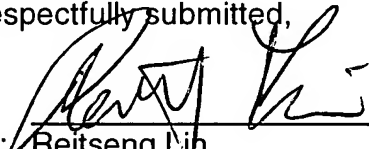
Docket No.
PU020098

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,


By: Reitseng Lin
Reg. No. 42,804
Phone (609) 734-6813

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
December 18, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop Amendment], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

12-18-06
Date

R. Buchalaugh